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THE HERCULOIDS
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SNIEGOSKI
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THE HERCULOIDS

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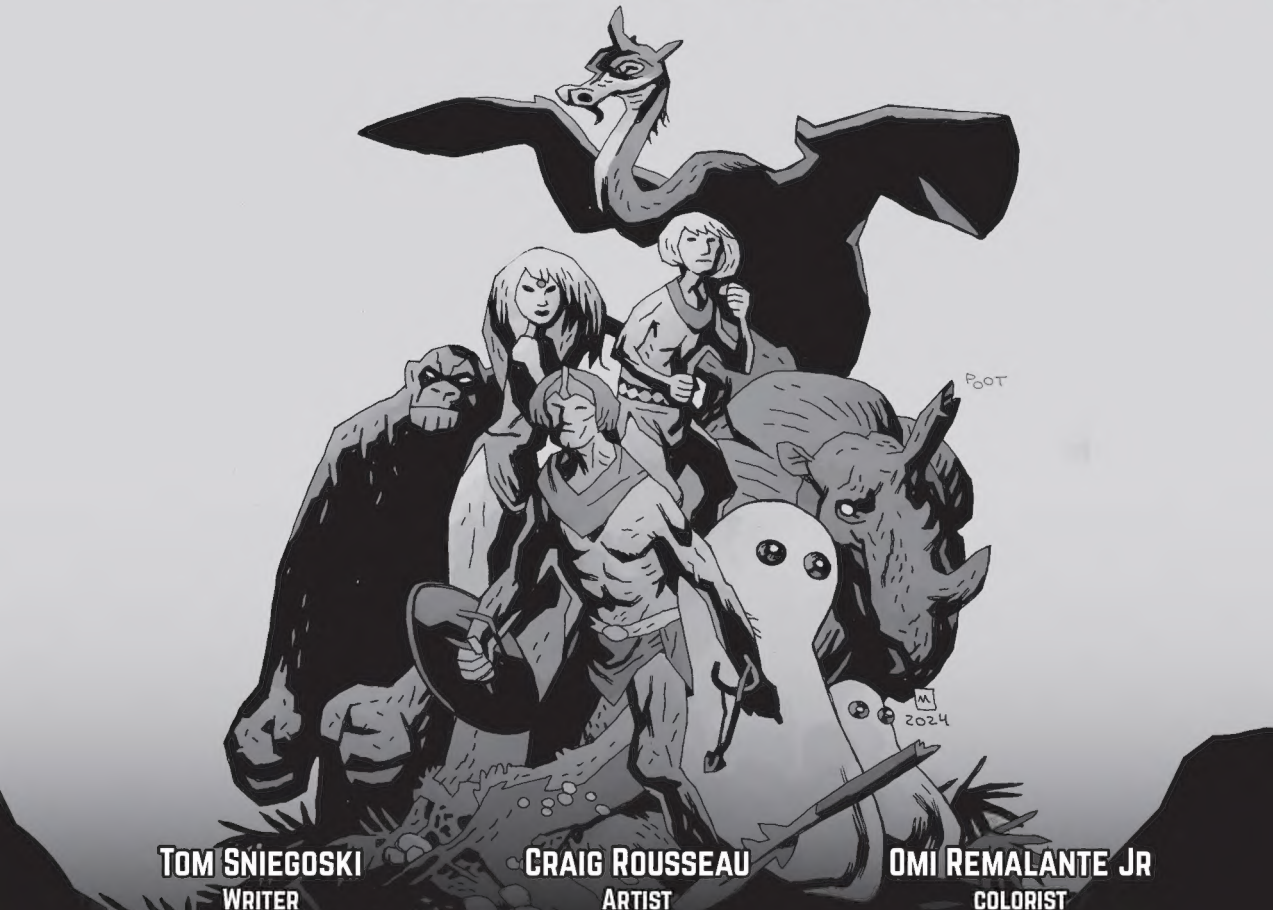
Somewhere out in space live the Herculoids: Zok, the laser-ray dragon, Igoo the giant rock ape, Tundro the tremendous, Gloop and Gleep the formless, fearless wonders!

With Zandor their leader, and his wife Tara and son Dorno, they team up to protect their planet from sinister invaders!

All strong, all brave, all heroes! They're...

The Herculoids



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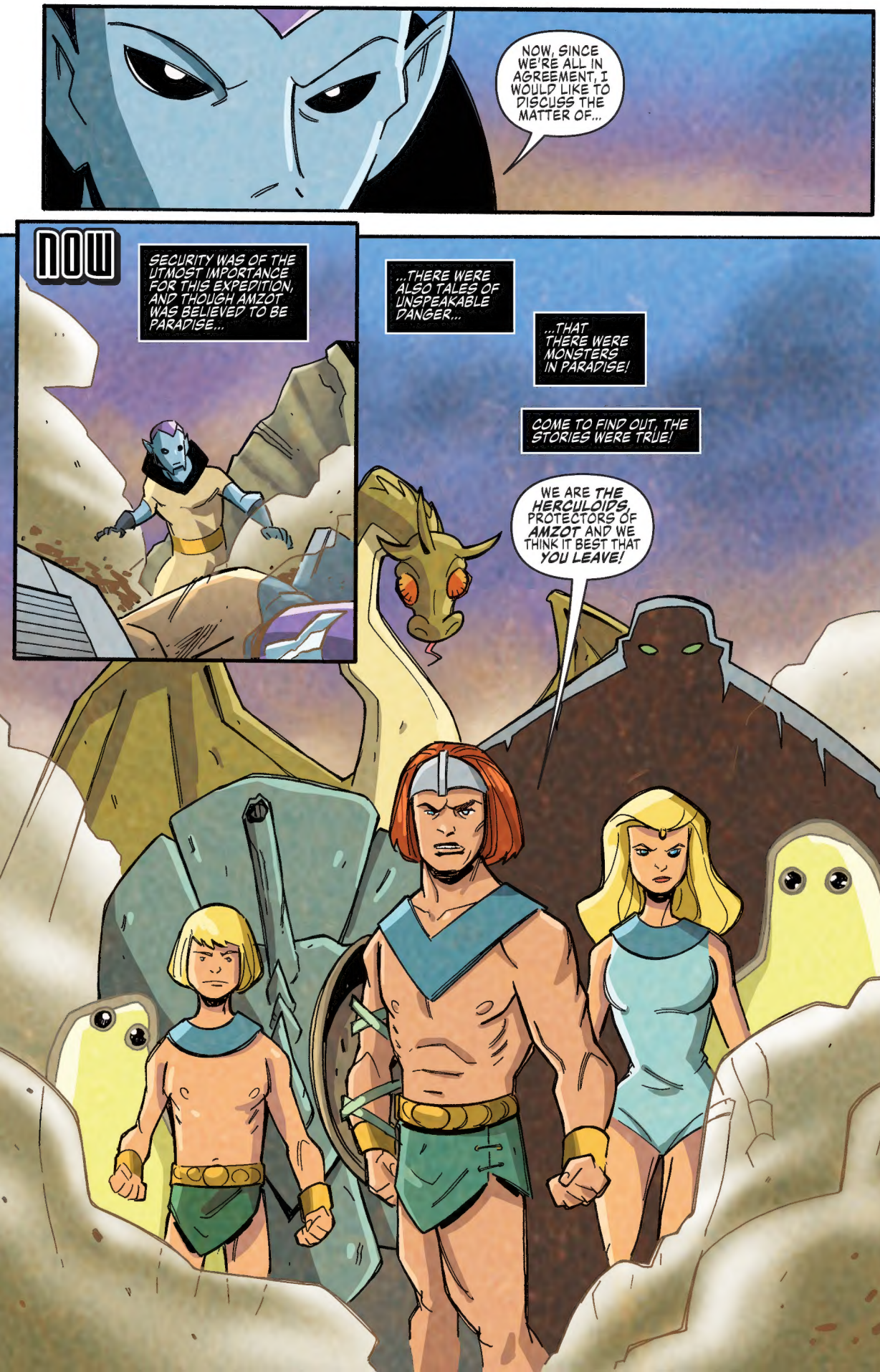
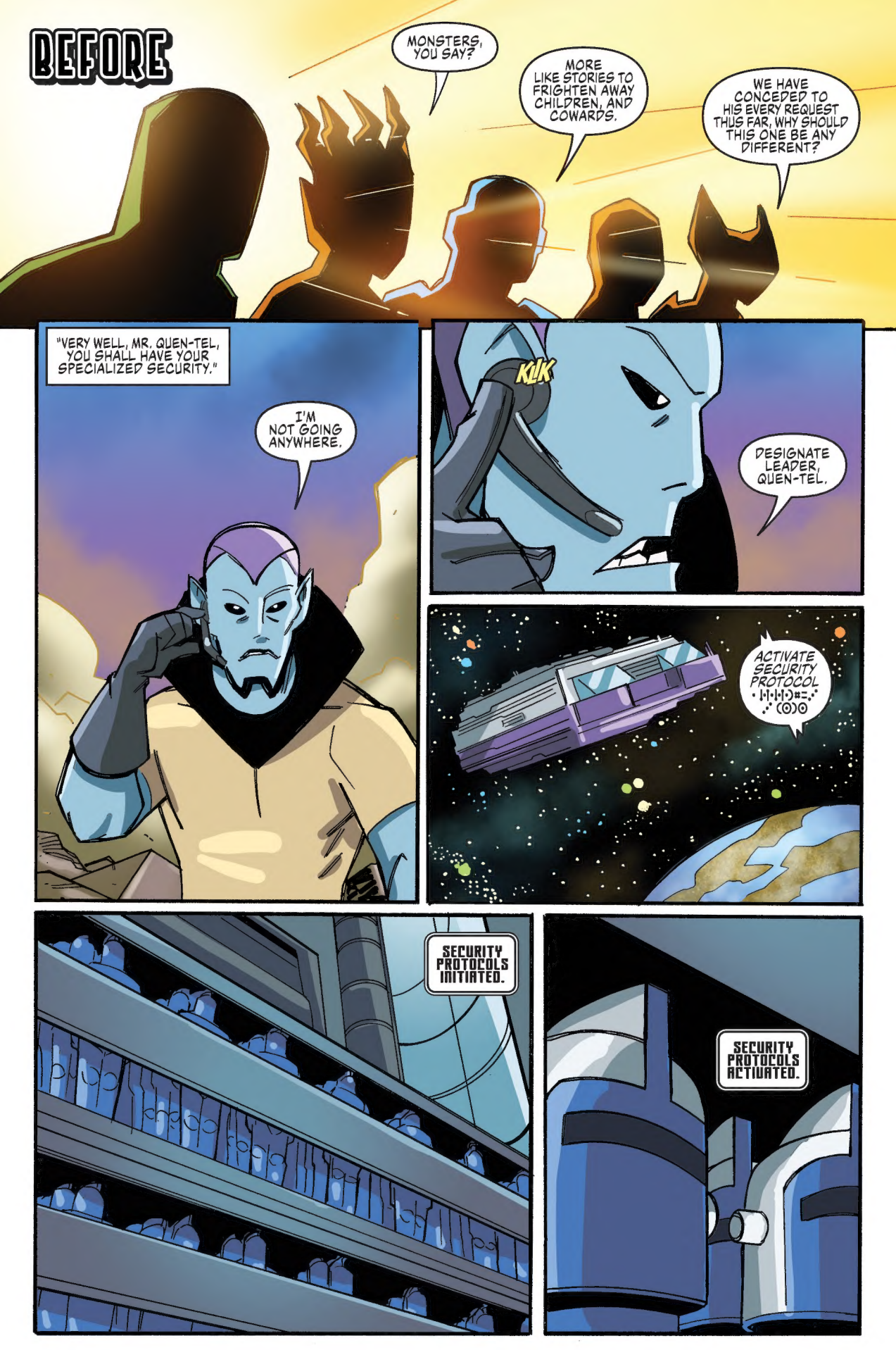
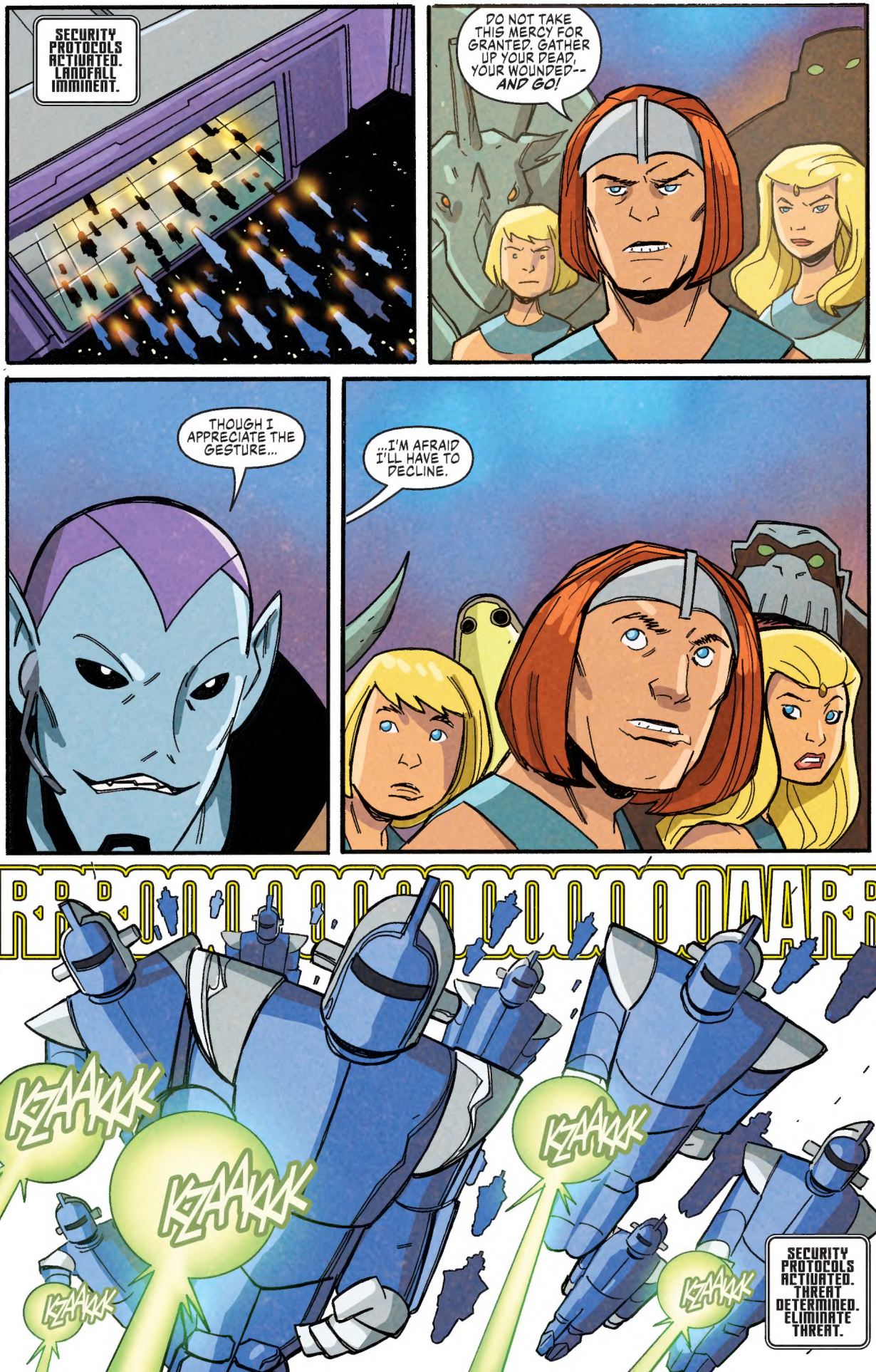
THERE WAS A PLANET SPOKEN OF IN WHISPERS, ONE SO RICH IN RESOURCES THAT WHOEVER FOUND IT WOULD BE WEALTHY BEYOND THEIR IMAGININGS.
THE PLANET WENT BY MANY NAMES. QUEN-TEL KNEW IT AS...
BEFORE
AMZOT? YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
AMZOT IS NOTHING BUT A LEGEND. EXPLORERS HAVE UNSUCCESSFULLY SEARCHED FOR MILLENNIA.
YOU WASTE OUR TIME, MR. QUEN-TEL.
I KNOW WHERE IT IS.
AND WITH YOUR ASSISTANCE, I WILL FIND IT FOR YOU.
MR. QUEN-TEL'S REPUTATION PRECEDES HIM, I THINK WE SHOULD LISTEN.
IF WE WERE TO BELIEVE YOU, WHAT WOULD YOU REQUIRE OF US?
AN EXPERIENCED EXPLORATORY AND EXTRACTING TEAM AS WELL AS THE LARGEST REFINERY SHIP IN YOUR FLEET.
WE BELIEVE IN YOU, MR. QUEN-TEL AND WILL TAKE THIS RISK.
YOU WILL HAVE WHAT YOU ASK FOR.
I THANK YOU FOR YOUR TRUST, YOU WON'T REGRET THIS DECISION.


NOW, SINCE WE'RE ALL IN AGREEMENT, I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER OF...
NOW
SECURITY WAS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE FOR THIS EXPEDITION, AND THOUGH AMZOT WAS BELIEVED TO BE PARADISE...
...THERE WERE ALSO TALES OF UNSPEAKABLE DANGER...
...THAT THERE WERE MONSTERS IN PARADISE!
COME TO FIND OUT, THE STORIES WERE TRUE!
WE ARE THE HERCULOIDS, PROTECTORS OF AMZOT AND WE THINK IT BEST THAT YOU LEAVE!

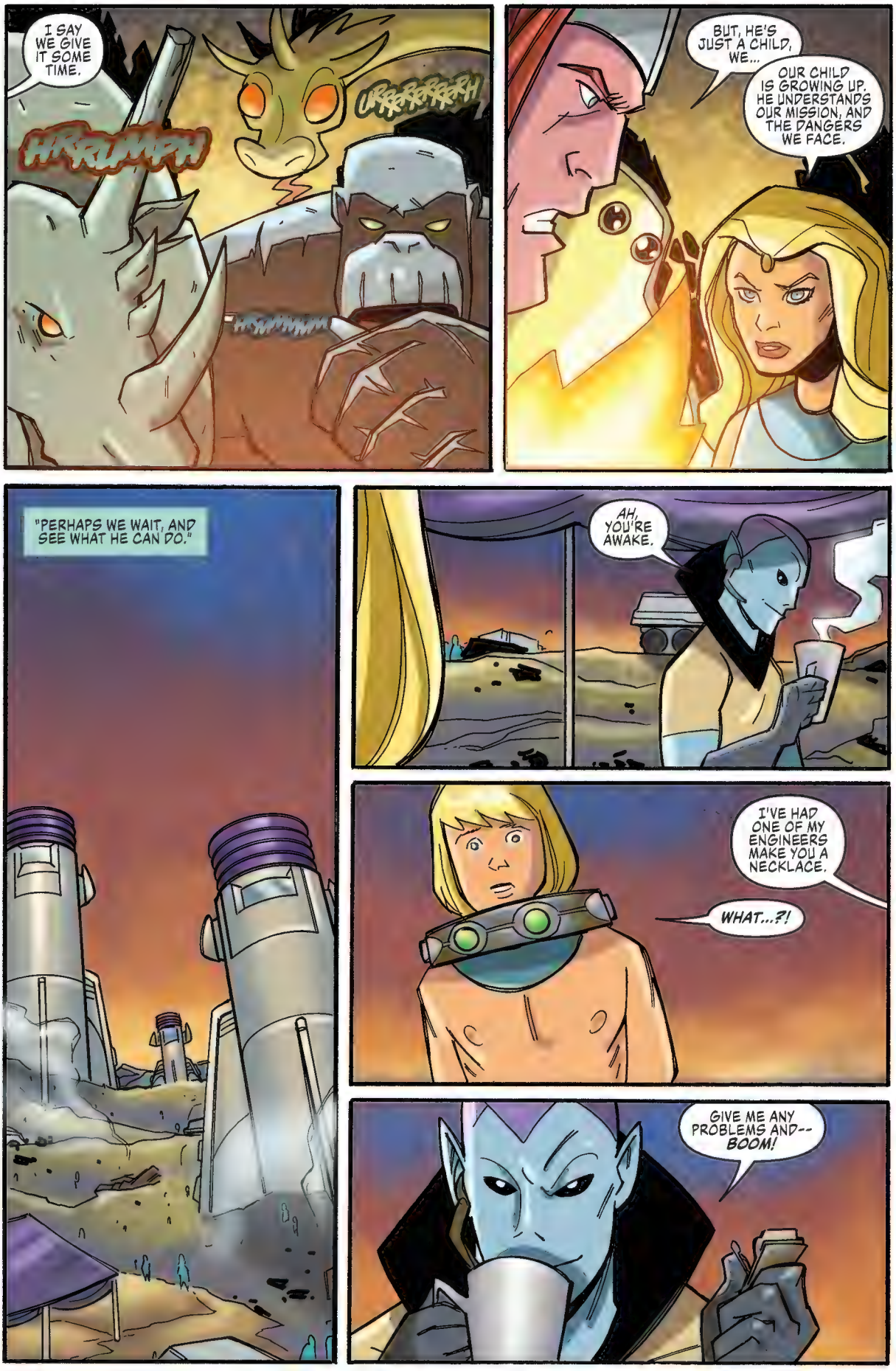

BEFORE
MONSTERS, YOU SAY?
MORE LIKE STORIES TO FRIGHTEN AWAY CHILDREN, AND COWARDS.
WE HAVE CONCEDED TO HIS EVERY REQUEST THUS FAR, WHY SHOULD THIS ONE BE ANY DIFFERENT?
"VERY WELL, MR. QUEN-TEL, YOU SHALL HAVE YOUR SPECIALIZED SECURITY."
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
KLIK
DESIGNATE LEADER, QUEN-TEL.
ACTIVATE SECURITY PROTOCOL
SECURITY PROTOCOLS INITIATED.
SECURITY PROTOCOLS ACTIVATED.

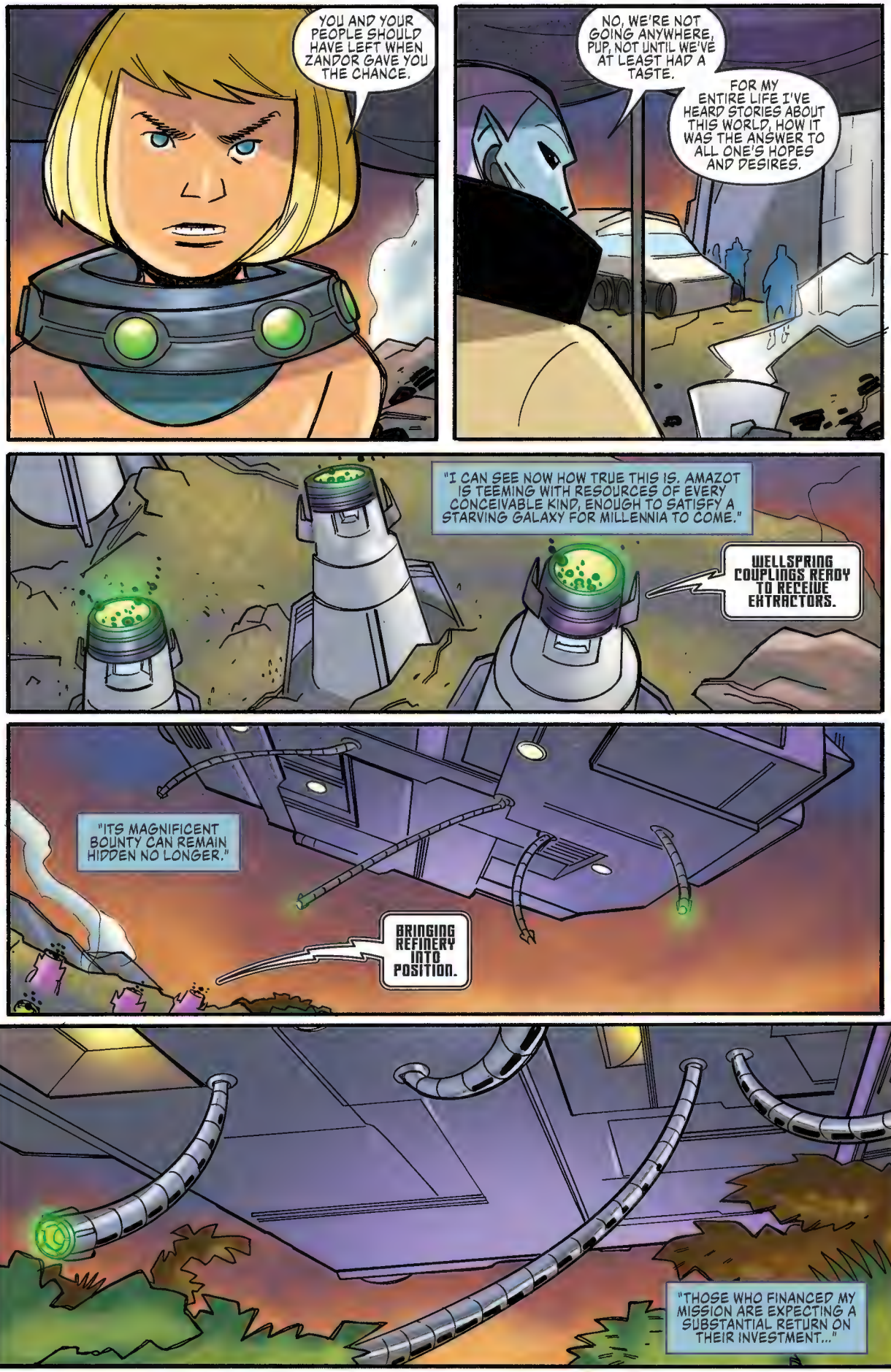

SECURITY PROTOCOLS ACTIVATED. LANDFALL IMMINENT.
DO NOT TAKE THIS MERCY FOR GRANTED. GATHER UP YOUR DEAD, YOUR WOUNDED-- AND GO!
THOUGH I APPRECIATE THE GESTURE...
...I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO DECLINE.
KZAAKK
KZAAKK
KZAAKK
KZAAKK
KZAAKK
SECURITY PROTOCOLS ACTIVATED. THREAT DETERMINED. ELIMINATE THREAT.

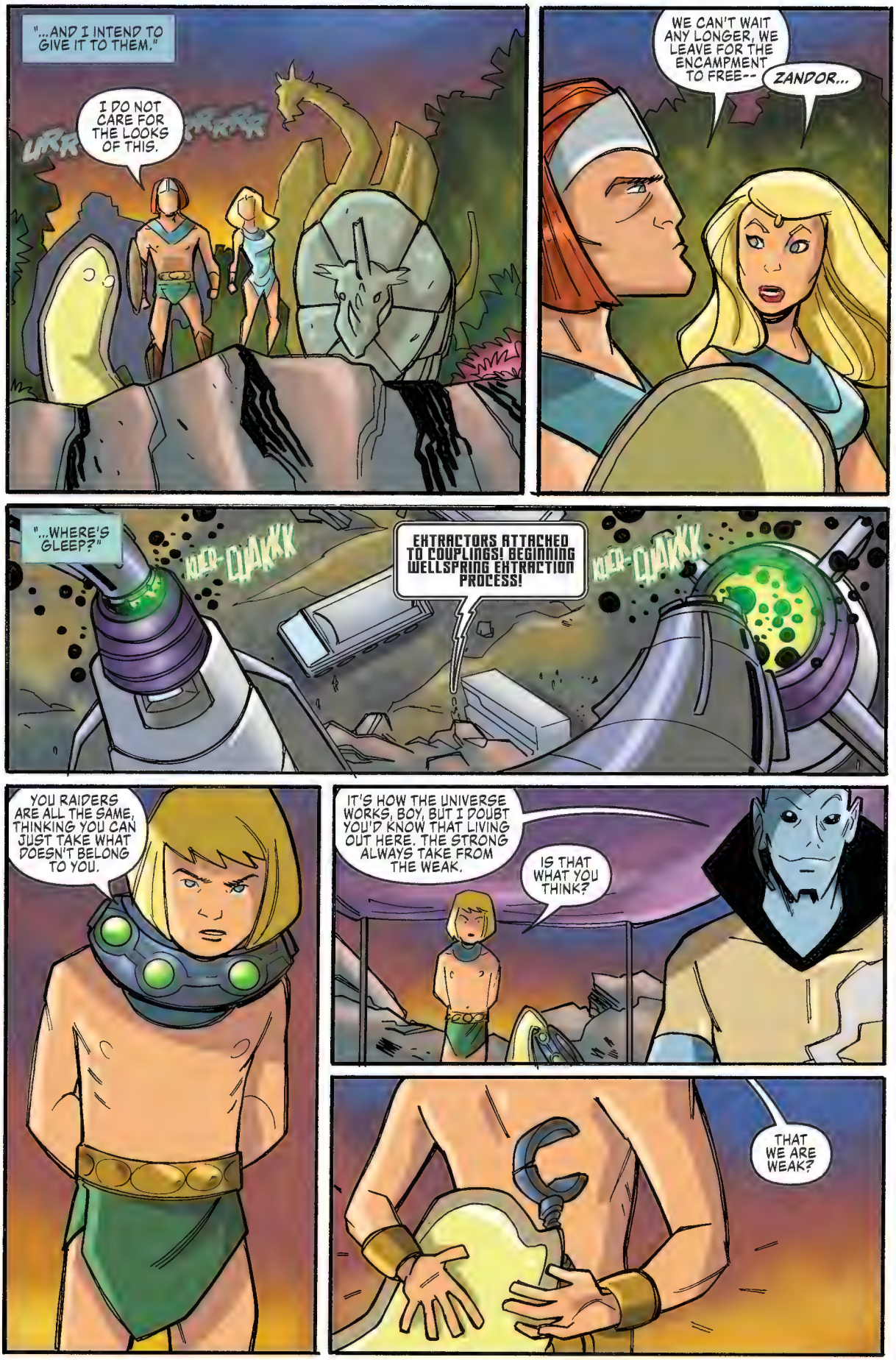
ELIMINATE THREAT!
ELIMINATE THREAT!
ELIMINATE THREAT!
ARRRGHHH
HERCULOIDS! ON YOUR GUARD!
KZAAKKK
KZAAKKK
KZAAKKK
KZAAKKK
THAT'S IT.
ELIMINATE THREAT!
ELIMINATE THREAT!
ELIMINATE THREAT!
KZAAKKK
KZAAKKK
KZAAKKK
KZAAKKK
"WIPE THE ANIMALS FROM EXISTENCE."
OHH!
AIIEE!
ARRGH!
KZAAKKK
PERHAPS AN INCENTIVE IS REQUIRED.
I'LL ONLY SAY THIS ONCE.

CONTINUE TO FIGHT ME AND I'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FIRE A SHOT THROUGH THE CHILD'S SKULL.
SO IT'S ENTIRELY UP TO YOU.
EITHER LEAVE, OR...
THOUGHT SO.

THREAT NEUTRALIZED.
VERY GOOD, SENTRY. BRING THE CUB BACK TO THE COMMAND CENTER. WORK MUST RESUME AT ONCE, WE'RE ALREADY BEHIND SCHEDULE.
YARRRGGHH
GGGHHHAA-IOOO
ARRRHHH
ARRRHHH
IGOO'S RIGHT, WE NEED TO GET DORNO BACK AT ONCE. I PROPOSE THAT UNDER THE COVER OF DARKNESS, WE'LL--
WE'LL DO NO SUCH THING.
FLLLLGGGRLLL?
WE CAN'T RISK IT--DORNO COULD BE HURT--OR WORSE.


I SAY WE GIVE IT SOME TIME.
HRRUMPH
URRRRRRRRH
HSSSSSSSSH
BUT, HE'S JUST A CHILD, WE...
OUR CHILD IS GROWING UP. HE UNDERSTANDS OUR MISSION, AND THE DANGERS WE FACE.
"PERHAPS WE WAIT, AND SEE WHAT HE CAN DO."
AH, YOU'RE AWAKE.
I'VE HAD ONE OF MY ENGINEERS MAKE YOU A NECKLACE.
WHAT...?!
GIVE ME ANY PROBLEMS AND-- BOOM!


YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE LEFT WHEN ZANDOR GAVE YOU THE CHANCE.
NO, WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE, PUP, NOT UNTIL WE'VE AT LEAST HAD A TASTE.
FOR MY ENTIRE LIFE I'VE HEARD STORIES ABOUT THIS WORLD, HOW IT WAS THE ANSWER TO ALL ONE'S HOPES AND DESIRES.
"I CAN SEE NOW HOW TRUE THIS IS. AMAZOT IS TEEMING WITH RESOURCES OF EVERY CONCEIVABLE KIND, ENOUGH TO SATISFY A STARVING GALAXY FOR MILLENNIA TO COME."
WELLSPRING COUPLINGS READY TO RECEIVE EXTRACTORS.
"ITS MAGNIFICENT BOUNTY CAN REMAIN HIDDEN NO LONGER."
BRINGING REFINERY INTO POSITION.
"THOSE WHO FINANCED MY MISSION ARE EXPECTING A SUBSTANTIAL RETURN ON THEIR INVESTMENT..."


"...AND I INTEND TO GIVE IT TO THEM."
I DO NOT CARE FOR THE LOOKS OF THIS.
URR
RRRR
WE CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER, WE LEAVE FOR THE ENCAMPMENT TO FREE--
ZANDOR...
"...WHERE'S GLEEP?"
KLER-CLAKKK
EXTRACTORS ATTACHED TO COUPLINGS! BEGINNING WELLSPRING EXTRACTION PROCESS!
KLER-CLAKKK
YOU RAIDERS ARE ALL THE SAME, THINKING YOU CAN JUST TAKE WHAT DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU.
IT'S HOW THE UNIVERSE WORKS, BOY, BUT I DOUBT YOU'D KNOW THAT LIVING OUT HERE. THE STRONG ALWAYS TAKE FROM THE WEAK.
IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK?
THAT WE ARE WEAK?

I'M SURE IT TAKES QUITE A BIT TO SURVIVE HERE, BUT WHEN COMPARED AGAINST A GALACTIC CORPORATION OF ENORMOUS--
WOUDDD
URRKKK!
THE HERCULOIDS EAT GALACTIC CORPORATIONS FOR BREAKFAST.
BLLARRGGLL
FILTHY... MONKEY...
BEEEP

BRAAAKKOOOOOOOOMMM!
NO!
KZAAKKK
KZAAKKK
KZAAKKK
KZAAKKK
KZAAKKK
KZAAKKK
FASTER, GLEEP!
FLLGGRRUUU
KZAAKKK
KZAAKKK
KZAAKKK
WOUND ONLY IF POSSIBLE, THE CHILD STILL HAS ITS USEFULNESS!

REEEEEEEEARRRRRRRRR
HERCULOIDS-ATTACK!
POOT
POOT
POOT
URRRAARRGH
BLAKKAAAAAAAAAMMMM
KZAKKK
KZAKKK
BLAKKAAAAAAAAAMMMM
URRRRRRRRAAAHH
KRASSSSHH
KRUNCHH
URRRAAAAAGH
THUDDD
URRRAAAAAAAGGGHH
SKRRRRRRREEEEEEEE!

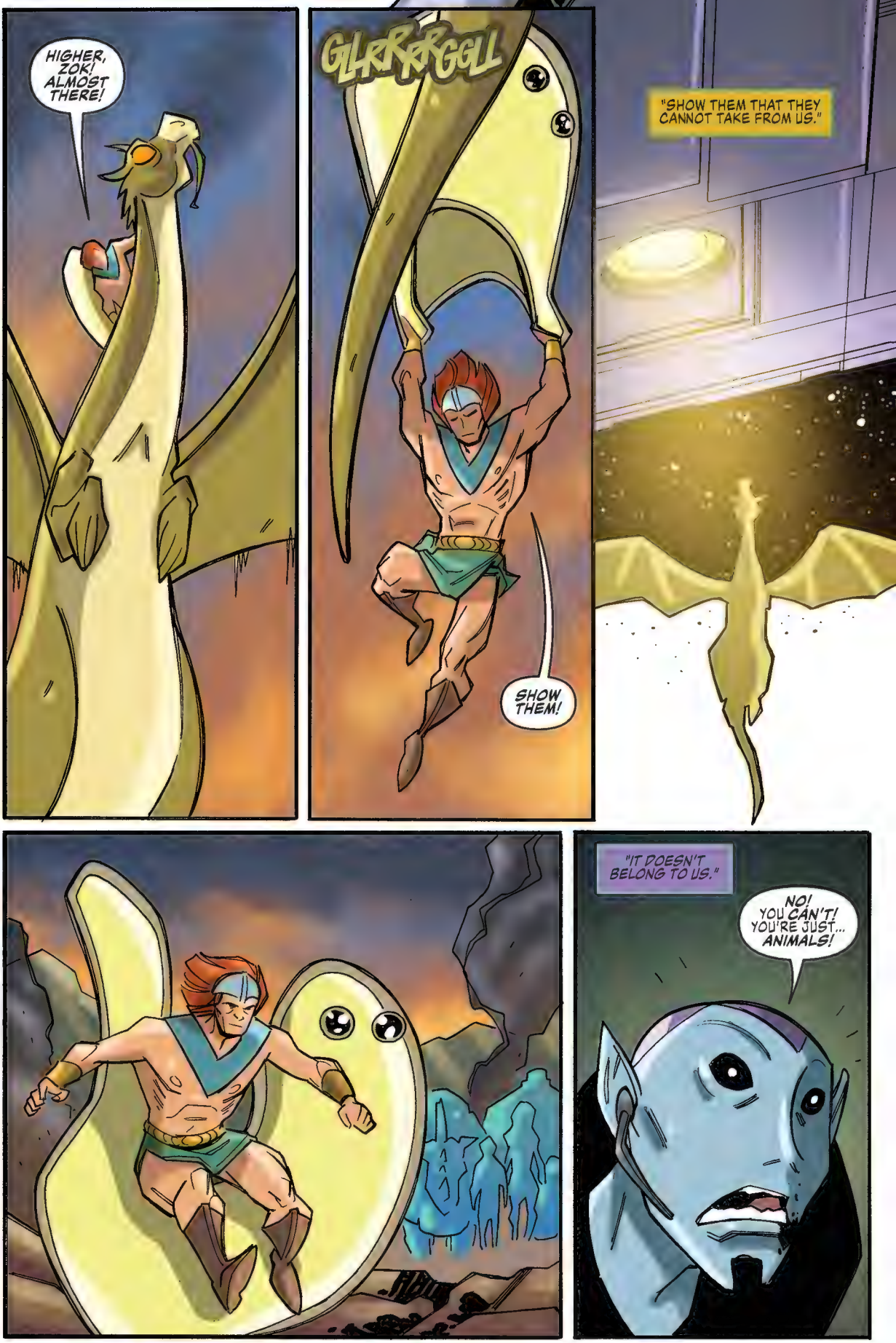
THIS IS QUEN-TEL! DISENGAGE FEEDING LINES AT ONCE, AND RETURN TO ORBIT!
I REPEAT, DISENGAGE AND RETURN TO ORBIT. WHAT WE'VE EXTRACTED SO FAR WILL HAVE TO DO-- FOR NOW.
"BUT WE'LL BE BACK, AND AN ARMY WILL BE WITH US."
TARA, LOOK!
THEY'RE LEAVING!

HAVE A TRANSPORT SHIP READY FOR MY IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE!
YEEEARRRGH!
UNNGGHH.
QUEN-TEL... HELP... PLEASE...
SHINNG, IS THAT YOU?
HELP... ME... PLEASE...
WE...WE NEVER... NEVER SHOULD HAVE COME...WE NEVER...IT DOESN'T BELONG... BELONG TO US!
IT DOESN'T BELONG TO US... THE MONSTERS... THE MONSTERS ARE REAL...

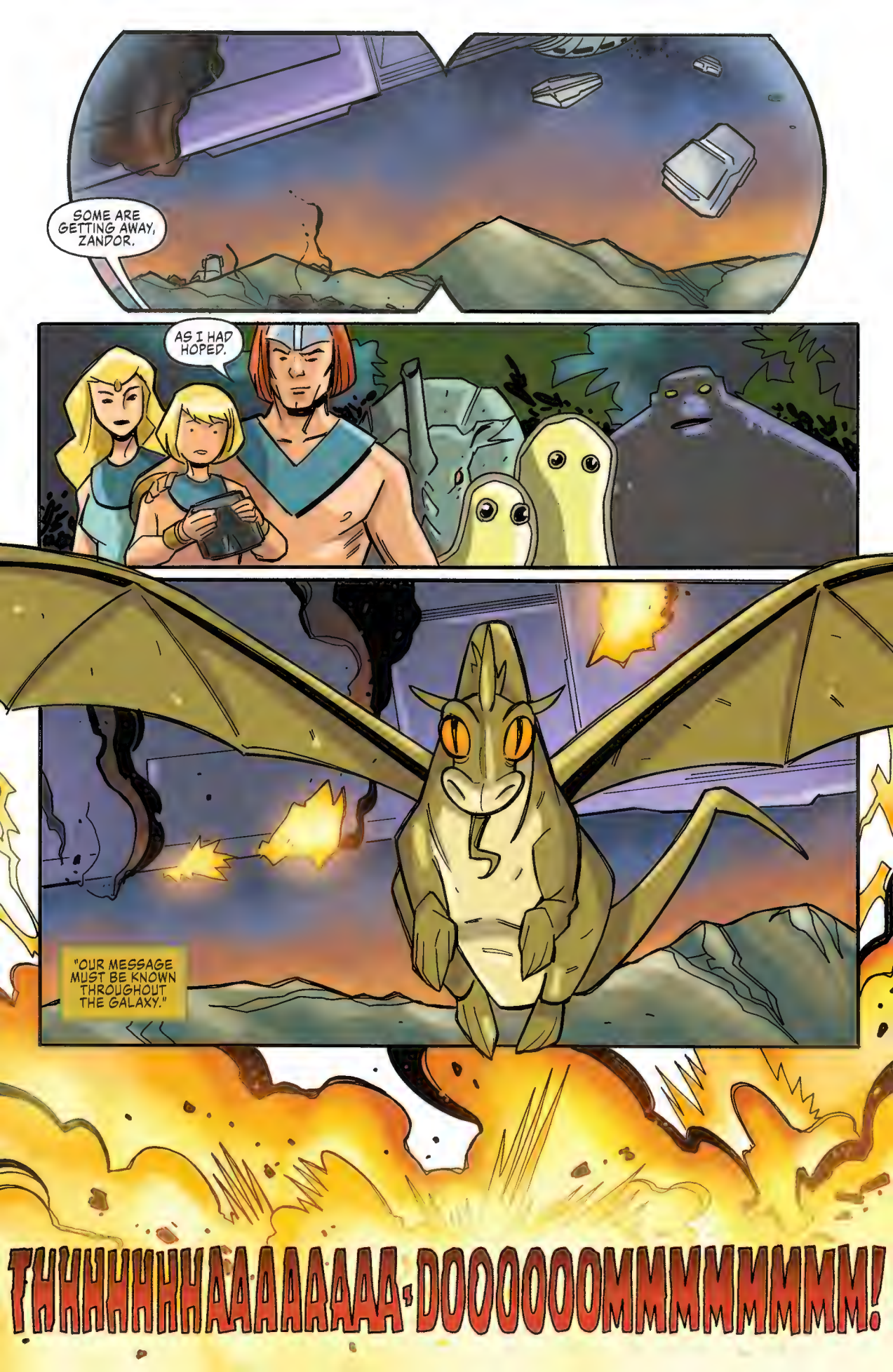
REEEEEEEARRRGGHH
WE NEVER SHOULD HAVE COME...IT DOESN'T BELONG TO US! NEVER...
FZZZZZZZZZZZZZZAAM
THAT'S IT, GIRL! LIGHT IT UP!
FZZZZZZZZZZZZZZAAM

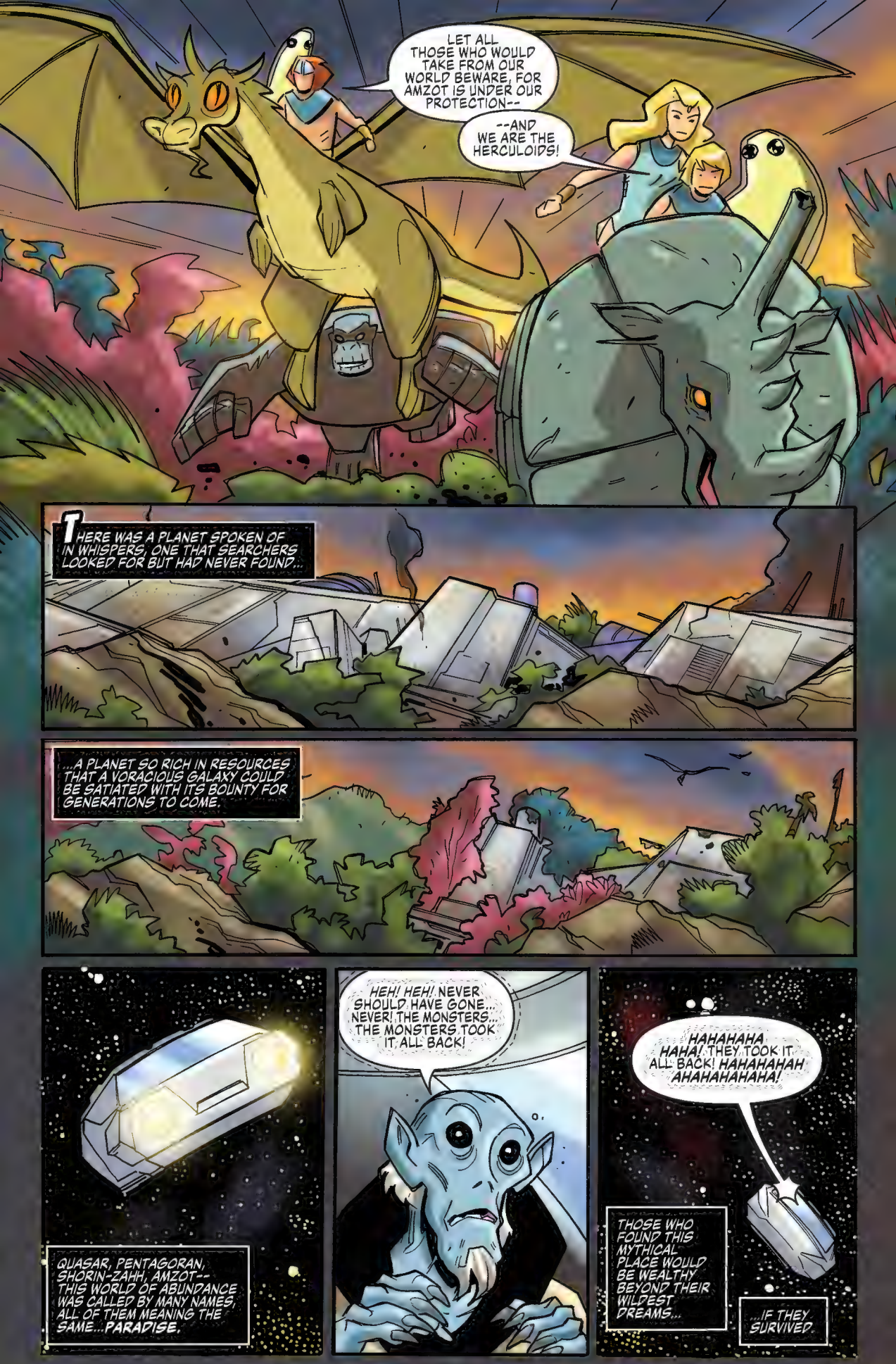
BAAAAAAATHOOOOOOOOM!!
=HUH!=
=HUH!=
=HUH!=
THE UNIVERSE--VAST, MYSTERIOUS, AND BOUNTIFUL.
"WE NEVER SHOULD HAVE COME..."
POOT
POOT
SMAASH
WHRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
THERE IS STILL SO MUCH IT HAS YET TO REVEAL...
...SO MANY TREASURES IT WISHES TO KEEP FROM US...
THIS IS QUEN-TEL, PREPARE REFINERY FOR IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE.

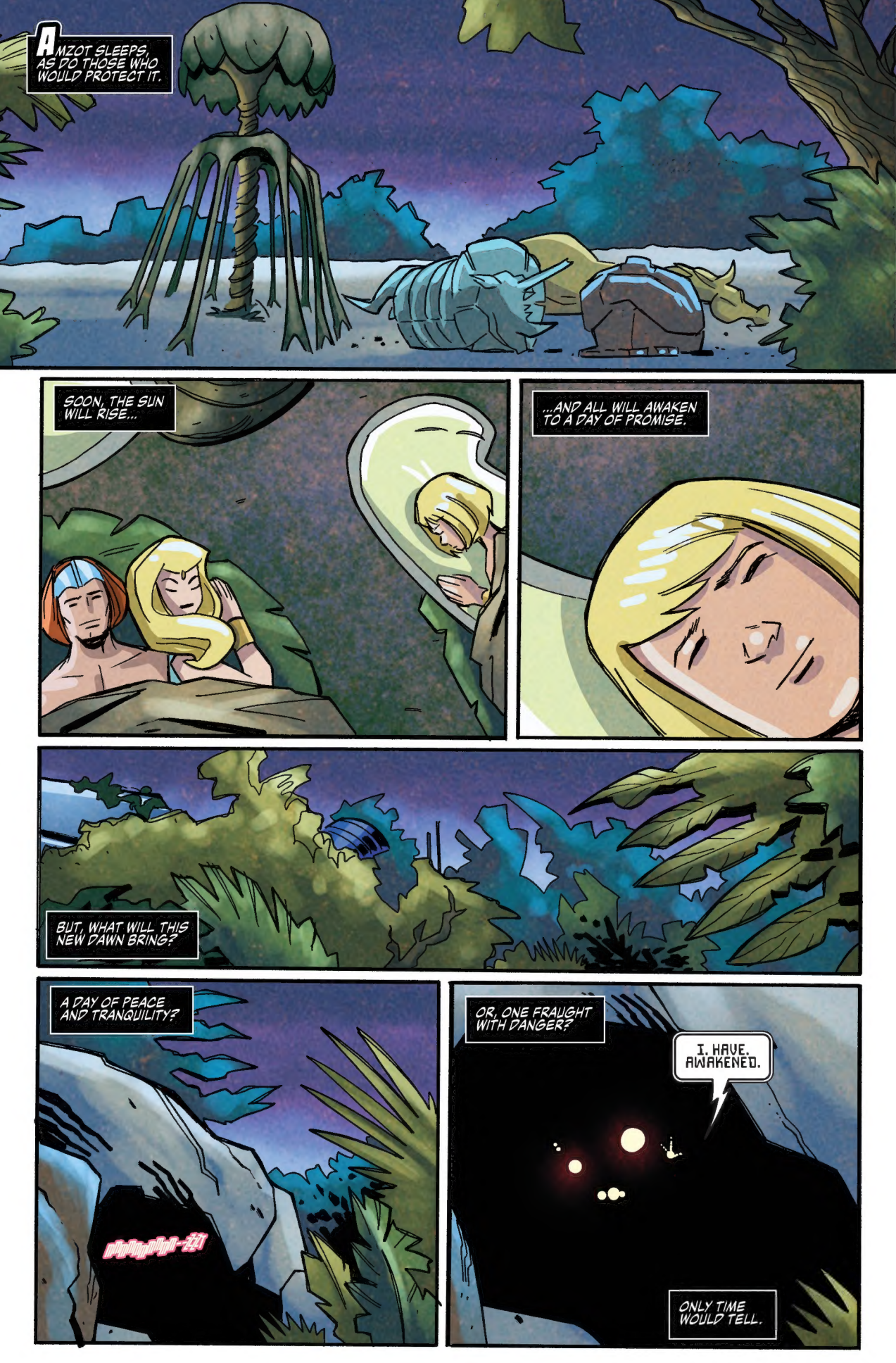
...SO MANY TREASURES IT WANTS TO KEEP ALL TO ITSELF.
"...IT DOESN'T BELONG TO US!"
AND, IF THE UNIVERSE WILL NOT GIVE UP ITS FORTUNES WILLINGLY...
...THEN THEY MUST BE TAKEN BY FORCE.
"...NEVER SHOULD HAVE COME...
"NEVER."


HIGHER, ZOK! ALMOST THERE!
GLRRRRGGLL
SHOW THEM!
"SHOW THEM THAT THEY CANNOT TAKE FROM US."
"IT DOESN'T BELONG TO US."
NO! YOU CAN'T! YOU'RE JUST... ANIMALS!

"SHOW THEM, ZOK! TAKE IT DOWN!"
FZZZZZZZZZAAAAAAAARHHH
DOOOOOOOOOOOOOOMM
YEEEEARRRGHHH!
DOOOOOOOOOOMM


SOME ARE GETTING AWAY, ZANDOR.
AS I HAD HOPED.
"OUR MESSAGE MUST BE KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY."
THHHHHHHHAAAAAAAA-DOOOOOOMMMMMMMM!


LET ALL THOSE WHO WOULD TAKE FROM OUR WORLD BEWARE, FOR AMZOT IS UNDER OUR PROTECTION--
--AND WE ARE THE HERCULOIDS!
THERE WAS A PLANET SPOKEN OF IN WHISPERS, ONE THAT SEARCHERS LOOKED FOR BUT HAD NEVER FOUND...
...A PLANET SO RICH IN RESOURCES THAT A VORACIOUS GALAXY COULD BE SATIATED WITH ITS BOUNTY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.
QUASAR, PENTAGORAN, SHORIN-ZAHH, AMZOT-- THIS WORLD OF ABUNDANCE WAS CALLED BY MANY NAMES, ALL OF THEM MEANING THE SAME...PARADISE.
HEH! HEH! NEVER SHOULD HAVE GONE... NEVER! THE MONSTERS... THE MONSTERS TOOK IT ALL BACK!
THOSE WHO FOUND THIS MYTHICAL PLACE WOULD BE WEALTHY BEYOND THEIR WILDEST DREAMS...
HAHAHAHA HAHA! THEY TOOK IT ALL BACK! HAHAHAHAH AHAHAHAHAHA!
...IF THEY SURVIVED.


AMZOT SLEEPS, AS DO THOSE WHO WOULD PROTECT IT.
SOON, THE SUN WILL RISE...
...AND ALL WILL AWAKEN TO A DAY OF PROMISE.
BUT, WHAT WILL THIS NEW DAWN BRING?
A DAY OF PEACE AND TRANQUILITY?
OR, ONE FRAUGHT WITH DANGER?
I. HAVE. AWAKENED.
ONLY TIME WOULD TELL.

NEXT ISSUE:

In this issue: The Mole People have risen up to conquer their surface-dwelling rivals, and the Herculoids are the only force that can hope to stop them. But to defeat these relentless invaders, the dedicated defenders may have to destroy all of Planet Amzot's subterranean realm! Acclaimed author TOM SNIEGOSKI and illustrator extraordinaire CRAIG ROUSSEAU unearth a hidden world The Herculoids #3 - including a rich vein of covers from FRANCESCO MATTINA, JOSEPH MICHAEL LINSNER, BJORN BARENDS, FELIPE MASSAFERA, and special guest artist DAN PANOSIAN!

FRANCHISE MASTERMIND GREG WEISMAN ON THE NEXT GARGOYLES EPIC AND REUNITING WITH ANIMATED SERIES VETERAN FRANK PAUR

Greg, one incredibly exciting element of this new *Gargoyles* title is who will be joining you on the creative team — Frank Paur is drawing the book, and for those who may not be familiar, he worked with you on the original cartoon series. He's also worked on shows starring the X-Men and the Avengers, and plenty more besides that. How exciting is it to team up with him again, and for fans to see his art on the page?

It's fantastic to be working with Frank again. Frank and I produced the original animated series together, an *Gargoyles* would not have been *Gargoyles* without Frank Paur. And the idea for this miniseries — doing a deep dive into Demona's history — came from Frank. He pitched it; first to me, and then, after we made it work within my existing *Gargoyles* timeline, we teamed up like in the old days to pitch it to [editor] Nate Cosby, Dynamite, and Disney. Everyone has just been incredibly enthusiastic about it, and I can't wait for the fans to see what Frank and I are cooking up.

I'm also psyched we're bringing back Robby Bevard as our colorist. Robby and I haven't gotten to work together since the SLG *Gargoyles* days, and his work over Frank's pencils and inks is just stellar.

Demona is a fan-favorite in the *Gargoyles* franchise, and she's also the first cast member to have a comic series fully titled after her (though we'd be remiss if we didn't mention the recent, masterful *Gargoyles Winter Special* that is effectively a Bronx spotlight). Why is Demona the first, and how much of the series is fully focused on her, as opposed to the more traditional cast of characters? Will we see some other familiar faces in its pages?

Short of Goliath himself, no one is a bigger breakout star than Demona. And Goliath, of course, tends — for obvious reasons — to be the lead in any main *Gargoyles* series. Demona, on the other hand, is in the unique position of having been alive for the entire millennium during which most of our other Gargoyles were sleeping as stone statues. That means she has a thousand years' worth of backstory that our other leads flat-out don't have. That creates a lot of opportunities for storytelling — and we have a monumental story to tell. I'm not going to pretend that we can cover ten centuries in five issues. We're not even trying to do that. But we are going to give our fans five very specific glimpses into Demona's life across the first two centuries of her immortality. The main cast will not be a part of this, but, yes, we will see some familiar faces… just not necessarily the faces one might expect.

Can you let us know more about when this series takes place in the timeline?

I don't want to get too specific, because — as the fans know — I'm quite spoiler-averse. But I will say that our story opens within a decade of the 994 events at Wyvern that launched our animated series. Then we move forward across the next several centuries to tell a single story with a strong throughline across five different eras in five different locations.

So, it sounds like we won't be seeing Demona and Goliath's daughter Angela in this series. But we will be meeting a new character: Angelika. We're pretty sure this is her first appearance, right? Can you tell us a bit about her, and perhaps in what ways she parallels or contrasts Angela as well as Demona?

This is indeed Angelika's first appearance. Again, without giving too much away, Angelika is introduced as a young Gargoyle rookling from another clan. She sort of attaches herself to Demona, and Demona allows her to tag along against (what she believes to be) her own best judgment. Arguably, Angelika probably does have a few things in common with both Angela and Demona. But Angelika is very much her own unique character. She's not just filling a slot. If Frank, Robby, Nate, and I do our jobs right, she should take on a life — and I would think a fanbase — of her own.

Obviously, this series is unveiling a major storyline and chunks of *Gargoyles* tales along the timeline. Is it possible that we'll see more titles in the future focused on other individual characters?

Definitely. I have individual stories in mind for all our leads, and for most of our supporting cast as well. Brooklyn has TimeDancer, of course, which might not be dissimilar in structure to Demona's miniseries. And I've got a great Goliath/Elisa solo (or, I guess, duo) story that I'm just dying to tell. And the list doesn't stop there — I mean, there's still at least eight more centuries of Demona's history, too. Of course, if the fans want to see these stories, it sure wouldn't hurt if Demona's pre-sales were through the roof, you know? (Shameless, I know. But true, nonetheless.)

***Demona* sounds like a really exciting story with major introductions that should be very satisfying for longtime fans. Do you think a new *Gargoyles* epic set in the modern day might be coming out soon as well?**

Well, if by "modern day" you mean 1998, then absolutely. Nate and I are already discussing what comes next for the entire Manhattan Clan. I really think it's gonna blow the fans away.

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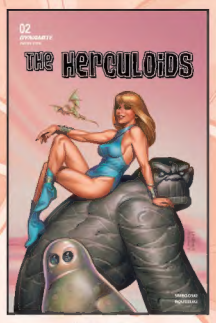

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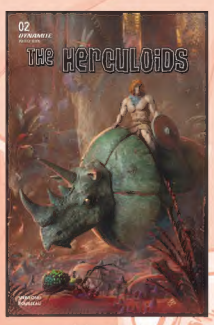

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BJORN BARENDS

COVER D
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COVER E
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ERIC POWELL

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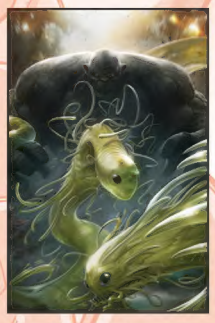

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FRANCESCO MATTINA

COVER J
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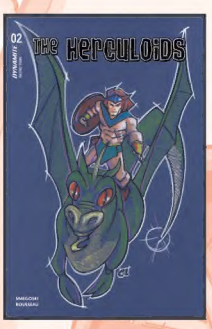

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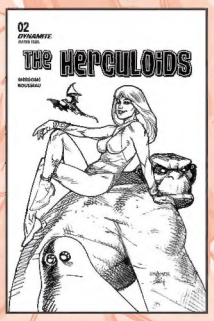

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Foil Virgin Art by
ERIC POWELL

COVER O
10 Copy Incentive
Foil Development Art by
CRAIG ROUSSEAU

COVER P
15 Copy Incentive
Pastel Original
Virgin Art by
CRAIG ROUSSEAU

COVER Q
15 Copy Incentive
B&W Virgin Art by
JOSEPH MICHAEL LINSNER

COVER R
20 Copy Incentive
Virgin Art by
ERIC POWELL

COVER S
20 Copy Incentive
Virgin Art by
FELIPE MASSAFARA

COVER T
25 Copy Incentive
Virgin Art by
BJORN BARENDS

COVER U
30 Copy Incentive
Virgin Art by
JOSEPH MICHAEL LINSNER

COVER V
FOC 7 Copy Incentive
B&W Art by
FRANCESCO MATTINA

COVER W
FOC 7 Copy Incentive
B&W Art by
FELIPE MASSAFARA

COVER X
FOC 7 Copy Incentive
B&W Art by
ERIC POWELL

COVER Y
FOC 10 Copy Incentive
Foil Art by
FELIPE MASSAFARA